

All Souls Day, Commemoration of the Faithful Departed: Mon. 2nd Nov. 2026:

The Mass today is offered for those who have died and who are in Purgatory. We should not have an erroneous idea that everyone goes straight to heaven. Yes, at *'at death, life is changed not ended'* and so today is a day of hope that all the dead remain in some form of relationship with God in heaven, and with us on earth. This commemoration is also one of taking responsibility for our actions, for our choices are not morally neutral; our freedoms always exercised in conjunction with other people. In justice, the effects of our actions cannot simply be dismissed; we are ultimately responsible for everything we have said and done. In Purgatory, we will be shown the times when we did not love as we ought. This will be difficult but without it, we will not be ready to meet God who is love. The Holy Souls need our help, and we should pray for our family and friends, but especially those souls who have no one to pray for them.

Opt. Mem. of St Martin de Porres, Religious – Tuesday 3rd November 2026:

Born in Lima, Martin de Porres was the illegitimate son of a Spanish gentlemen and a freed slave. He had been abandoned by his father and grew up in deep poverty. Placed in the care of a barber/surgeon he learned to cut hair and was trained in the medical arts. He was often ridiculed for his mixed race and not allowed to become a full member of a religious order. Even so, he spent long hours in prayer, and he was eventually permitted into the Dominicans as a functionary. This allowed him to wear the habit and live within the community, using the skills of barbering and healing which earned him the privilege of taking Tertiary vows of the Dominican Order. Despite some opposition, he flourished as a lay-brother and become known for his care of the sick, even to the point that he would disobey the rules of the order to minister to them, for he believed that the precept of charity took precedence over the precept of obedience.

The Memorial of St Charles Borromeo, Bishop – Wednesday 4th November 2026:

Charles was a dedicated student of both civil and canon law and was well placed to reform the clergy of Milan. As their Archbishop, he was dedicated to the needs of the local Church. He recognised that many of the Church's problems stemmed from the poor quality of his priests' formation and education. He established a Seminary for the education of candidates for Holy Orders and is therefore the author of modern Seminaries, that our Seminarians are well versed in theology, philosophy and morality. Thus, we may be assured that our new priests will soon be giving inspiring homilies.

Thursday in 31st Week in Ordinary Time (II) – 5th November 2026:

Robert Catesby was an originator of the Gun Powder Plot, coming from an honourable family, one faithful to our country's ancient faith. Robert had conformed to the Elizabethan Church but after his father died, he was moved to a conversion, and energized on political matters, somewhat inclined to violent measures. Restrictions on Catholics were harsh, and a small group felt the need to take matters into their own hands, hoping to relieve the plight of Catholics, and so, they brought from Spain a new recruit, called Mr Guy Fawkes. What they planned was wrong – a clear crime, but they were not acting from personal motives but from a position of fighting for their religious freedom against a government code of anti-Catholic laws. The discovery of the gunpowder plot became an excuse for further persecution; any hope for toleration of English Catholics was ended with many innocent people facing increased persecution. The 5th of November was proclaimed a feast day of Protestant England and so, "*Remember, Remember the 5th November*", then, is a warning against Catholicism.

Friday in 31st Week in Ordinary Time (II) – 6th November 2026:

St Paul says, '*our citizenship is in heaven*'. Other translations say our '*true home*' or '*our commonwealth*' is in heaven, so what is Paul saying to us. If he means '*our home*', then he is saying this is the place where we most find our comfort and long to return to. If he means '*citizenship*' then we are bound together in our duty, as subjects of a kingdom that is to come. If he means '*commonwealth*', then we do not live in isolation but have a shared history. Either way, our common purpose is our return to the communion of saints. And yet, Paul is in prison, about as far from the security of the kingdom as one can be, and yet he is truly free and invites us to imitate him. Like Christ, we are called to empty ourselves of everything the world holds dear and be examples of humble service. Our best role models are those who dedicate their lives in tireless service of the community. Indeed, nothing is more foreign to the Christian than to seek ease and comfort, for we are not created for comfort but for greatness.

Parish Bereavement Mass, 11am on Saturday 7th November 2026:

The Mass today is offered for those who are bereaved, grieving the loss of a loved one. Although, we especially invite those families who have lost a family member in the past twelve months, the Mass is open to all those who are grieving, as the feeling of loss does not have an end date, so we need to hear afresh the hope of the gospel.